

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-17

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ARA: BC: MR. GIRDLER

OSD: D. QUANT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 090213

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, MARR, US

SUBJ: SEC ARMY VISIT TO L. A.

REF: SANTIAGO 1946

1. FORMER SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FROEHLKE AND THE CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL ABRAMS VISITED VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA AND BOLIVIA IN EARLY APRIL. IT WAS THE FIRST MAJOR VISIT BY THIS AREA BY ARMY OFFICIALS FROM WASHINGTON IN OVER FOUR YEARS AND WAS INTENDED TO DEMONSTRATE CONTINUED US ARMY INTEREST IN LATIN AMERICA, AS AN ORIENTATION ON MILGROUP FUNCTIONS, MAP, AND FMS, AND TO RECEIVE A FIRSTHAND VIEW OF THE MILITARY SITUATION IN THE COUNTRIES VISITED.

2. BOTH MR. FROEHLKE AND GENERAL ABRAMS MET WITH HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE VARIOUS PROGRAMS. FMS PROGRAMS IN VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA REPRESENT A TYPICAL CROSS- SECTION OF LA PROGRAMS. BOLIVIA OFFERED EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF U. S. MAP PROGRAM.

3. THESE VISITS ARE THUS MOST ACCURATELY SEEN AS FURTHER INSTANCES OF THE VISITS ROUTINELY EXCHANGED OVER THE YEARS
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AMONG MILITARY OFFICIALS OF THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF THE
HEMISPHERE. NO EFFORT WAS MADE TO SURPRESS NEWS OF THE
TRIP. (FYI IN FACT, PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE FOR THE TRIP
STATED " MAXIMUM LOCAL COVERAGE OF THE VISIT IS DESIRABLE"
END FYI.) VISITS TO CHILE BY ADMIRAL ZUMWALT AND GENERAL
RYAN, AND TO US BY ADMIRAL MONTERO, GENERAL RUIZ, AND GENERAL

PRATS, ARE EVIDENCE THAT CHILE IS IN NO SENSE BEING
EXCLUDED.

4. YOU MAY DRAW AS YOU WISH ON THE FOREGOING IN RESPOND-
ING TO ALMEYDA ON THIS TOPIC. ROGERS

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NMAFVVZCZ

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